

APPENDIX 28

VARIANCE LETTER

Within the published Transportation Permit Policy, the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has established liberal maximums controlling weight, width, length and height of loads and vehicles that can be routinely permitted to use the State's highways. The department is frequently requested to waive one or more of these controls to accommodate the extraordinary circumstances of particular moves.

To more consistently determine the "good cause" requirements of such requests, all of the following guidelines will apply before any consideration of a variance will be made.

Weight--Purple weight is a maximum permit policy. There is virtually no circumstances short of an emergency endangering life or property or a defense mobilization that will justify a variance of weight.

Height--Maximum height policy permits no less than three-inch clearance to obstructions. Permit routing will conform to route clearances. Overheight permits will not be considered for hauling on "high deck" equipment when the overheight could be avoided by using conventional commonly available equipment obtained from another source.

Length and Width--Maximum length is 135 feet overall and maximum width is 14 feet. The size of the load must fully justify any length or width exceeding these maximums. This will require:

1. Proof that no other mode of transport is reasonably available (letter from railroad and or barge companies may be needed).
2. Submit drawing, pictures, etc., to establish that the load will be transported in the least size possible.
3. That the critical nature of technical or structural requirements be certified by the manufacturer/designer to effectively prohibit field fabrication of smaller component pieces. Economics or fabrication ease is insufficient justification without...
4. A bona fide economic comparison furnished by the manufacturer/designer indicating the range of total costs for the various options of fabrication and transportation. This should also include an identifiable beneficiary for the cost savings projected if a variance for length and/or width is granted.

Requests for variance will only be considered in the presence of all of the above information. The data must be furnished in letter form addressed to: